

NEIGHBORHOOD NOTES



City of Eden Prairie
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Eden Prairie Water Quality Improvement Project

The Nine Mile Creek Watershed District has awarded the contract for the Eden Prairie Water Quality Improvement Project to Rachel Contracting. Preparation for the project started in November 2007.

The Water Quality Improvement Project (Project) includes a number of tasks to improve the water quality of four Eden Prairie lakes that are within the Watershed District. These include Northwest Anderson, Southwest Anderson, Birch Island and Bryant Lakes.

The Watershed District proposed the Project as

HOURS OF OPERATION

City Code requires that contractors work within set hours to minimize disturbance to the neighborhood. These include:

Monday through Friday - 7 a.m. to 7 p.m.

Saturday - 9 a.m. to 7 p.m.

Sunday / Holidays - No work allowed without written authorization from the City

an overall tool to improve water quality leading to Nine Mile Creek and the Minnesota River. The City reviewed the proposals and petitioned for the work in March 2004. Work has now been authorized and will be starting in November 2007 and will continue through 2008. Each lake has a series of water quality goals and tasks proposed which are summarized below.

Northwest & Southwest Anderson Lakes

Northwest and Southwest Anderson Lakes are currently managed as a wildlife sanctuary. The water quality goal is to provide a habitat suitable for the types of fish and plants that would grow naturally within shallow lake systems. The majority of the property around the lakes, except for a small area within the City of Bloomington, is owned and maintained by Three Rivers Park District.

Vegetation surveys were conducted in 2004 and 2006 by Blue Water Science to provide information on the existing quality of the lakes and help set goals for reestablishment of higher quality lake habitat. Information on the surveys can be found on the City's website at www.edenprairie.org.

The project includes a partial drawdown of the two lakes to assist in reducing invasive aquatic vegetation and restore a healthier native species mix. Periodic drawdowns are a tool that the Park

District has used in the past for shallow lakes such as the two Anderson Lakes. Southeast Anderson Lake is in Bloomington and will be managed separately.

2007 Actions

Actions that will start in 2007 will include laying of electrical lines for the drawdown and grading of the stormwater ponding area for the pond improvements. The pond is on the western edge of Northwest Anderson Lake.

Future Actions

The drawdown will start in late summer using an electrical pumping system. Herbicide treatment will be used as needed (where the water level is not fully drawn down). Alum treatment to remove phosphorus from the water column will be incorporated into the lakes if needed. Future actions are contingent on how successful the drawdown will be.

Birch Island Lake

Birch Island Lake is currently managed as wildlife habitat. However, the water level has declined approximately 7 feet since the mid-1980s. This reduced the amount of dilution of nutrients in the lake as well as diminishing the potential uses of the lake. The goal for the lake is to improve the water quality and restoring the historic water level.

The Watershed District is implementing a plan that is two-fold.

- Installation of a drainage system to capture groundwater and stormwater that is currently draining into the Highway 62 corridor to reroute it towards the lake.
- Construction of a new stormwater pond northwest of Birch Island Lake (on city property) for additional stormwater treatment.

- Expansion of an existing stormwater pond south of Birch Island Lake (Lesley Lane pond) to provide more flood protection and water quality treatment capacity.

2007 Actions

Construction and installation of the drainage system and stormwater ponds will begin in late November to early December 2007. This will include removal of common buckthorn (an invasive species) from easement areas as needed.

Future Actions

Restoration of easement areas impacted by construction will be restored in 2008. This would include sod and irrigation systems. Additional buckthorn treatment may also be required.

Bryant Lake / Cardinal Creek Conservation Area

Bryant Lake includes a park facility and swimming area that is managed by Three Rivers Park District. The water quality within the lake has deteriorated. The goal is to restore and protect the water quality within the lake. This will include:

- Restoration of wetland along County Ditch 34 (Cardinal Creek Conservation Area). This will include a new outlet structure to raise the water level.
- Construction of a nature trail (wood chips / grassed) through the Conservation Area.
- Treatment of the lake with a single in-lake alum treatment to remove phosphorus from the water column

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2007 Actions

After frost has formed (December / January) the contractor will start by grading in an access road from Gerard Drive (within City property) to the Conservation Area. The contractor will also start building a pedestrian bridge that will take the trail over the new outlet structure.

Future Actions

The new trail will be finished in 2008. This will include final grading and seeding of the finished trail. The wetland will be allowed to fill naturally through snow melt and rainfall. An alum treatment will be completed in Bryant Lake if needed.